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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/585,177

06/29/2006

Keiichi Taguchi

88522.0047

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26021 7590 07/20/2009
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EXAMINER

WALSH, RYAN D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2852

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/20/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/585,177	Applicant(s) TAGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner RYAN D. WALSH	Art Unit 2852	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 June 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/29/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

Claims 6 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 6, the claimed, “process of the adjusting operation triggered by the timing information is different from that of the adjusting operation which is performed at other timings” is unclear. It can not be determined what is “other timings” in relation to the previously claimed language.

Regarding claim 7, the claimed, “the adjusting operation which is triggered by the timing information than the operation process that is performed at other timings” is unclear. It can not be determined what is “other timings” in relation to the previously claimed language.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakazato (JP 2001-154429).

Regarding claims 1 and 13, Nakazato teaches, “An image forming apparatus comprising: an image forming section which includes a latent image carrier (21) which is constructed to carry an electrostatic latent image and a charger unit (22) which charges the latent image carrier to a predetermined surface potential, wherein an electrostatic latent image, which is formed on a surface of the latent image carrier, is developed (23) with toner to form a toner image; and a controller unit which performs an adjusting operation to adjust operating conditions (paragraphs [0037-0038]) of the image forming section based on a density detection result of a toner image which is formed by the image forming section as a patch image [0032-0041], wherein the controller unit determines execution timing of the adjusting operation based on timing information related to variation over time in charge property of the latent image carrier (count value reaches a predetermined number, related to fatiguing of photoconductive drum, see [0032-0034]).”

Regarding claim 2, Nakazato teaches, “wherein the controller unit performs the adjusting operation when the timing information reaches a predetermined threshold value [0032-0034].”

Regarding claim 3, Nakazato teaches, “wherein the controller unit uses information on remaining service life of the latent image carrier as the timing information (see at least [0032-0034]).”

Regarding claim 4, Nakazato teaches, “wherein the controller unit uses an integrated value of the operation amount of the latent image carrier as the timing information [0040].”

Regarding claim 5, Nakazato teaches, “wherein the controller unit uses information on remaining service life of the charger unit as the timing information (charge is used in sync. with the photoconductive drum since they are used together, see at least [0032-0041]).”

Regarding claim 6, as best the examiner can ascertain from the language of the claims, Nakazato teaches, “wherein the controller unit executes the adjusting operation at necessary timing according to a status of individual parts (photoconductive drum) of the apparatus, and process of the adjusting operation triggered by the timing information is different from that of the adjusting operation which is performed at other timings [0032-0034].”

Regarding claim 7, as best the examiner can ascertain from the language of the claims, Nakazato teaches, “wherein the controller unit performs more simplified operation process for the adjusting operation which is triggered by the timing information than the operation process that is performed at other timings (temperature, see [0043-0045], monochrome or only color [0032-0034 & 0058]).”

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claims 8-9, the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed, “wherein the controller unit controls charge property of the latent image carrier by adjusting the amount of current which is supplied to the discharging electrode based on

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the timing information, as well as executing the adjusting operation when the amount of current is changed”, along with the remaining claimed subject matter.

Regarding claims 10-12, the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed, “wherein the controller unit controls charge property of the latent image carrier by adjusting the charging bias based on the timing information, as well as executing the adjusting operation when the charging bias is changed”, along with the remaining claimed subject matter.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RYAN D. WALSH whose telephone number is (571)272-2726. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, David Gray can be reached on 571-272-2119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ryan D Walsh/
Examiner, Art Unit 2852